

Beauty

They speak like no one has ever spoken, even in Manhattan ("We should admit that we live in a society that promotes beauty"; "I left feeling powerful, potent and incredibly alive").

You don't give a monkey's what happens to any of them.

No one has a proper job (even *This Life* had a plumber). There are no black faces. No one is ugly or fat.

Of all the unintentional laughs — and believe me, there are lots — none was funnier than Channel 4's press handout claiming the show "sensationally disregarded every television taboo ever created".

Er, so far, that's one pair of boots in tasteful shadow, and a snatch of blurry home video footage of the type punters used to send in to Paul Raymond's *Electric Blue*. Apparently.

After Krud or Calk or whatever he was called (all the men have names like Kurt, Brad or Capote), had made Carrie over, etc. she lay primly back in bed with the sheets pulled right up to her neck.

Honestly, I've seen more vomit and shocking bedroom scenes when George, played in *Rainbow*, shared a

and give them a break to show

I was on the *New Faces* panel a few times, once when a comedian

first beat of *Get Your Act Together*, with her own position *He Got It Got! On*. I could hardly make out a

And George can take heart from the example of the show's presenter, Roman Keating from *Boyz n the Hood* — living proof that you can become a star without any talent whatsoever.

Lakes (BBC1) saw Jo poised to lock lips again with her old lover Sarah — only to change her mind and jump on top of Sarah's husband Charles instead. What a relief. One less bean. For the time being.

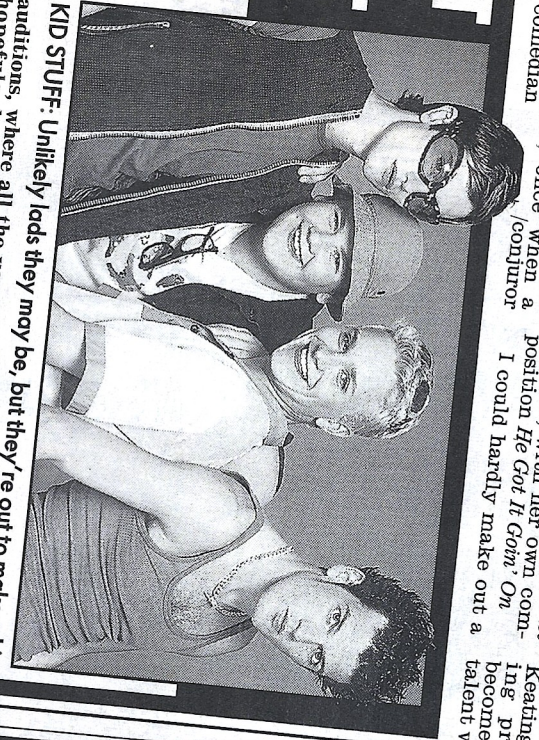
BOYZ ACT IS A REAL GIGGLE..

IT WAS hard to tell where *Boyz Unlimited* (Friday, CA) ended and *Get Your Act Together* began, which was the spoof and a boy band is put together by of a manager called Nigel (highly unlikely).

There's one with a sweet smile and a naughty past, a very young one with the voice of an angel and a devilish propensity to screw anything that moves, an exceptionally weird one, and a tubby, insecure, blond one who writes the songs ("I'm the new Elton John. Except I'm not fat. And I don't do it with men").

He's called Gareth, and I can't believe he's based on any living person.

Nice touches included the



KID STUFF: Unlikely lads they may be, but they're out to make a hit auditions, where all the young hopefuls had to sing Rick Astley's *Never Gonna Give You Up* (remember?), and Nigel tried every possible excuse for vetoing a black boy ("He's too tall... I'm not sure about his hair... um, his voice is a little bit fluty...").

well, yes, he was black, obviously.

Radio One DJ Jo Whaley provides a drool, deadpan commentary. Or maybe she

doesn't know it's a spoof either. The trouble is, how do you send up something that's beyond parody?

Episode one ended with the band about to record their first single, *I Say A Little Prayer* (which thick Nicky suspected Gareth had written), at Abbey Road studios... in Chelmsford.

One step up, I guess, from appearing on *Get Your Act Together*.

Charlie's Choice

Inside Story: Heartbreak (Weds, BBC1, 10.15pm)
A NICE antidote to Valentine's Day, this John walked out on Val after 12 years to marry someone he met on the Net. Dawn and Neil had three children before he told her he was gay — and was moving in with his boyfriend. Andrew left Angela for his cousin, their 17-year-old body-sister. Makes Brookside look like Trumpton.

Charlie's Clanger

WHAT was I thinking of, describing Emmerdale's Chris Tate as Kim Marchant's son-in-law? He is, of course, her stepson. Back to *Coronation Street*... On Sunday, Janice ordered a bitter and a lager — but didn't notice when she was handed two bitters.
● Like G. Kingswood of Kent, you could win £30 by writing (on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope) to: TV Clangers, The Mirror, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

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